Big Bend Chamber of Commerce

February, 12, 2026 Meeting

- **Meeting called to order** by Donnie Daniels at 6:03 pm, all were reminded to sign in

- **Directors present:** Donnie Daniels, Karen Drinkard, Katheran Crawford, Mackenzie Brooks, Alison Weiss, Chris Tschacher (Zoom)

- **Directors absent**: Mike Minnick

- **Members and guests present:** Alex Mariano, Alex Darschewski, Lynda Daniels, Alye Wright, Becky Krisher, Peter Cary, Tim LaFever, Dale Weiss, Jude Swansiger

- Mackenzie read the Big Bend Chamber of Commerce ***mission statement*** at the start of the meeting, since there were a few new guest present, from the bylaws

- **Presentation of minutes:** The minutes from December meeting were emailed to all directors and copies were passed out at the meeting for review, no changes were made, Karen motions to approve December minutes, Alison seconds, December minutes approved

- **President report:** Donnie reported Jude, new social media director, is doing a great job so far, Vice president position is still available- VP oversees membership and works closely with the Treasurer and social media- any nominees or interests please refer to Donnie, to keep the meetings flowing and timely, 10 minutes are allotted for each member presenting reports/requests/general talking points

- **Treasurer's report:** Katheran reported **membership account *$13,544.70*,** CASI has not cashed the $,1,500.00 check yet and we are still waiting for HOT allowance since we are still in the county audit, several entities have not complied with the county's request for impact statements or have not provided complete reports, **HOT balance** is ***$3, 495.45*** minus $1,500.00 outstanding CASI check, 3 new members have joined; West Texas Pool (Alpine), Terlingua Ranch Lodge POATRI, American Legion Post 653, there are currently 19 outstanding accounts in membership,

- **Tourism meeting:** Judge Hennington wants welcome signs for Study Butte, Terlingua and Lajitas, the chamber must pay for it, artists will need to submit designs to the chamber for approval

- **Social Media report:** Jude reported Face Book views have increased (up 13,630 views), up 213% and 615 new followers, she has been using interactive posts which seems to be getting more attention, she is working on a new mock up website more user friendly and can accept payments and events calendar added, she can present the new website at a future meeting for approval, Jude is asking for an additional $500.00 to her social media position plus maintenance fees, Katheran wants an amendment stating passwords and ownership belongs to the chamber, BBCC has been paying Square Space monthly and next due date is 03/07/2026 so a decision needs to be made before that date, she reported it will cost $150.00 for 2 years, host server is automated and lives on Jude's laptop Katheran motions to have a Zoom meeting regarding operations on 02/25/2025 @ 6:00 for the website, Karen seconds, all in favor, motion carries, Jude added a social media email for contact,

- **Big Bend National Park:** No representative

- **Big Bend Ranch State Park:** Alex reported 37,000 visitors to the park in January, Big Bend Ultra was successful with 800 runners and no major injuries, SAR exercise with game warden is happening, a documentary is being filmed at the Warnock Center, maintenance position is still available, she mentioned some upcoming events all on website, Far Flung is looking to start a mobile emergency van utilizing local guides and she was looking for some ideas on compensation for the volunteers using chamber member businesses, she also mentioned some of the improvements happening at the park

- **Events committee:** Business spotlight- Far Flung for March, they have three dates available Alison will get back to chamber with confirmation, Alison makes a motion to set the dates for Mingle and Jingle to 12/19/2026 from 4:00pm-6:00 pm Mackenzie seconds, all in favor, date is put into the calendar, Easter egg hunt 04/04/2026 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm at Boathouse again, 4th of July at TFEMS as usual, Alison wants to have a members social as appreciation to members, she will get a proposal and get back with the information

- **Old Business:** Donnie wants everyone to think about “what does the chamber mean to members” and come to the next meeting with ideas of how to improve, Alison is moving forward with her idea of Big Bend Chamber of Commerce cookbook,

- **New Business:** Tim LaFever spoke about his idea for a sponsored ride share to Presidio and back, he is looking for sponsors to help with insurance or just where he can ask for assistance, this is not something the chamber can help with directly but some suggestions where he could ask for some help and

resources were given, Donnie brought a name tag sample which was passed around for all to look at, all liked the look of it,

- **Next meeting** is scheduled ***March 12, 2026 @ 6:00pm at the Patillo Center, Study Butte***

- **Meeting adjourned** at 7:24 pm